

PROFITABLE FRUITS.

Varieties Best for this Valley.

What Should Be Planted for Profit.

A Lecture from an Old Fruit Grower that Should be Read by Every Land-owner.

Last Saturday afternoon, at a meeting of the Maricopa County Fruit Growers' Association, D. Turner, one of the valley's oldest and most experienced nursery men, delivered the following essay upon Arizona fruit culture:

At the request of your Secretary I will give a short essay on my experience with various fruits during my residence of about seven years in this valley, giving my ideas on the varieties which I have tried, taking them up separately.

PEACHES.—All kinds of peaches seem to do well and bear a good average crop, but I think that yellow clingstones ought to be more generally planted, especially if we wish to encourage canneries and export to their requirements. Canners will demand the yellow clingstones and will take all they can get of those in preference to any others. The clingstones are also used for drying and are as good, if not better, than freestone, as the flesh is more solid and they shrink less to the pound. This is the result of my experience and observation in California, where I conducted a nursery business for a number of years. The idea that the seeds can not be cut out from clingstone peaches is nonsense, because machines are now in use that cut out and pit peaches of all kinds with equal rapidity. There are a great many varieties of the yellow clingstone, each having its merits. The one most under my observation is the "Sellers Golden." Of the early varieties the best I have found are the "Briggs Early May" and the "Alexander," both having a good deal of greenish white color.

Of the early freestones the "Parsons Early" is almost identical with "Hale's Early," and is a profitable early peach to plant, ripening about the middle of June. It is a heavy bearer, with bright-red cheek and a perfect freestone, a good dryer and shipper.

The "Early Crawford," a yellow peach, follows the "Parsons Early" in succession, though there are others earlier, such as "Lady Ingold" and "Flettus St. John," but I do not know of any bearing in the valley the present year.

Of the yellow-fleshed peaches the "Mur" and "Sunok Free," taken with the "Crawford," run the bearing season up to the end of September. The "Sawley" would also come in at this time to aid in making a long drying season for the first-class dryer and keep it constantly employed.

The "Early Crawford" has a bad habit of cracking at the pit, which makes it hard to handle, but there are other varieties equally as good, or even better, such as the "Wheatland," which is very large and ripens about the same time. Then comes the "Susquehanna" and "Franklin," equally fit for drying and canning.

For white freestones the "Early York" follows the "Parsons Early," then the "Xion's Free," "Woods' Late," the "Baker's" peach and "Silver Medal," the last a pure white to the pit. These varieties, of which several peaches are as a rule or more water than the yellow and consequently not as profitable for drying, but they help all up the season and make a nice article of dried fruit, if properly put up.

The late peaches that ripen after October 1 are not usually available for the canner or dryer, as their operations practically close with the delivery of the "Sawley." Such varieties may, however, be available for supplying local markets with fresh fruit.

2 APRICOTS.—The apricot season is much shorter than that of peaches, unless a variety requiring most expert handling to get rid of the crop without loss.

The first to ripen in this valley is the "Pringle." It is a clingstone and quite profitable if it can be disposed of in sufficient quantities, but there are now several new varieties of freestone coming forward that claim to be still earlier.

If we can get a freestone apricot as early as the "Pringle," that will also make a dryer, then the "Newcastle Early" is one of the new varieties mentioned, and I expect to determine its merits next year, as I have planted ten acres. Other new varieties that claim to be early are "Hinkley's Extra Royal," "Smith's Triumph" and "Tinsley's Seedlings."

The standard apricot of the day is the "Royal," which is the greatest bearer, and bears with greater certainty than any we have, and while there are finer varieties of fruit, none are so profitable for commercial purposes as the "Royal."

The "Large Early" is of good size and bears fairly well.

The "Early Golden" is of nice quality, as sure a bearer as the "Royal," and a smaller fruit.

The "Peach" and "Moorpark" varieties, which are similar, rank among the best, are large in size and unsurpassed for canning or family use, although they are not in my experience borne good paying crops.

The "St. Ambrose" is a fine, large and most luscious apricot, ripening with the "Royal," but it is too soft in texture to bear transportation any great distance. It is a good bearer and one of the finest eaters.

3 ALMONDS.—My experience has been that the almond is an uncertain producer, unless a variety can be found that bears successfully and without fail.

I have found one kind that came from a prominent California nursery six years ago and that has borne a crop of nuts every year when other varieties beside it have not had any at all. I have no name for it, but shall ascertain it correctly. I consider it so far as tested the only almond I could recommend for extensive planting.

The following varieties are considered good in California and should be tested here: The "St. Louis," "St. Louis," "Golden State" and "Commercial."

The main point in my opinion to which attention should be given is to get an almond that will bear every year.

4 NECTARINES.—My observation has been that the common "Red Nectarine" is the heaviest producer and the "New White" the finest quality, but not a heavy bearer. In fact in my opinion they are not heavy producers, as compared with peaches under the same conditions and, as they are not available for commercial purposes, would not recommend them for extensive planting.

5 POMEGRANATES.—I have found the "Paper Shell" to be a superior variety, as it is a prolific bearer and a handsome fruit.

This fruit should be more extensively planted in this valley for shipping purposes, as the time is coming when pomegranates will be better known in the Eastern markets and a demand created, while at present it is almost unknown.

6 PLUMS.—There are very few varieties of plums that can be said to do well here, but I take a place among the profitable products of our valley.

The "Blue Dawson" does remarkably well, being loaded with fruit every year.

Of the Japan varieties the "Kelsey" plum is undoubtedly the most successful as it is a rapid grower and a precocious bearer, beginning when only two years old.

The "Blood" plum or "Balsamina" is another fine variety now being tested in the valley, also the "Fruit Simon" or "Apricot" plum and lastly the new yellow plum (the "Burbank"). From the fact that these plums are of the "Kelsey" strain I think they will all be successful.

7 PEARS.—Of the different varieties of pears I can only say that the "Bartlett" is the most easily managed and the most profitable of the pear family.

This pear will do well on the heavy bottom lands and will bear fairly well on the heavier mesa soils, but should not be planted extensively on the sandy soils as they are too light.

The "Winter Nellis" is a favorite and will not come into market until the "Bartlett" is out of the way.

8 PISTACHES.—The "White Adriatic" is now so well known and has been so extensively planted that comment is unnecessary. Suffice it that it is standard.

Of other varieties I have found that the "San Pedro" has dropped its fruit every season for three years and appears to me to be of no market value.

I have bidden some new varieties this season with buds sent me by the Agricultural Department at Washington and from present appearances I shall be able to report as to their usefulness another year.

I have given in this brief essay a few points from my own observation and experience and hope it may be of some use to some one and call out discussion and other points on the various subjects that will be useful to all. I think the fruit men should exchange their ideas freely at these meetings, so that all may derive the benefit and know better what varieties of fruit to plant for profit.

Yuma Times: "Mr. J. D. Cusanbary reports his planter plant as running steadily and satisfactorily. A clean-up has not yet been effected, consequently the returns to date cannot be reliably estimated."

There is a decided activity in patenting mines throughout Arizona, indicating great activity in mines and a demand for thoroughly secured properties. This must be true, for there must be \$500 worth of improvements done upon every claim before an application for a survey can be made and granted for a patent.

WANTS.

The quickest returns for the least money are to be obtained from the REPUBLICAN'S Want Columns. Situations Wanted, Help Wanted, For Rent, For Sale, To Let, To Exchange, one cent a word each insertion, or by the month at five cents per line a day.

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Lost—Left by the owner at some place by the owner where she called on Monday, May 19, a black silk hand bag, with gold handle, engraved "Addie H. Kinney." Finder will please leave the same at this office.

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THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY of Arizona invite sealed proposals for the sinking of a well upon the grounds of the University within a radius of ten miles of Tucson.

The bids should state the price for the following depths: 500 feet, 700 feet and 1000 feet, and the price per each 100 feet above 1000 to 1500 feet.

The well will be cased from top to bottom with the best casing used in such wells; said casing not to be less than six inches in diameter.

As a guarantee of the good faith of the bidder each bid must be accompanied by a certified check for the sum of five hundred (\$500) dollars. Bids will be received up to 8 o'clock Tuesday night, June 22, 1890.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. J. M. CUSANBARY, Secretary. Tucson, Ariz., June 5, 1890.

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